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# The Brooklyn Paper

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DOWNTOWN, PARK SLOPE & BAY RIDGE EDITIONS

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THE GIRLS OF SUMMER: (from left) Sophia Dvorkina, Alexandra Cherkas, Adelynn Vazrai, Isabella Vinokurov, Frances Levin, Natalia Volosova and Rachel Broytman, all from Brighton Beach, enjoyed a hot day at Coney Island before last weekend's official opening.

## CONEY (ALMOST) READY TO PLAY

By Courtney Donahue  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Coney Island's new amusement park made its brief debut this weekend, before closing for some renovations.

Luna Park, the 100-year-old area to open in the hand-luck "People's Playground" in almost 50 years, entertained and thrilled the public for the first time on Saturday, one day after the politicians and media connected got their first lookie lookie.

The speak-peep last Friday gave some families a chance to try out the much-anticipated amusement park, but only allowed them to ride the two free rides — most of the "kiddie" variety.

Brian Gottlieb, a member of Community Board 13, said the preview was still a success.

"I saw lots of smiling faces, children

### BOARDWALK OR SIDEWALK?

SEE PAGE 2

that were seemed to be very happy, enjoying the rides. That's what Coney Island's all about."

Officials had just 14 out of the 19 rides open to the public on Saturday, including Wild Willy's, the Tickler, a twisting coaster with rapid-fire drops.

And that good news gave Borough President Markowitz a chance to do what he does best:

"Back at the turn of the 20th century, people called the amazing Luna Park an 'Electric Eden' — and now

after 66 years, we've got a new Luna Park for the 21st century," said the irrepressible Beep.

Now, Luna Park will be closed until mid-June before maintaining a seven-day-a-week schedule through Labor Day. The three-acre park will be open on weekends after that, through Columbus Day.

Once re-opened, the amusement park's rides will also include:

• **Air Race** — This thrill ride simulates the experience of fighter pilots and sends riders upside down at up to 4Gs of force.

• **Electric Expedition** — This family-friendly ride allows visitors to explore Coney Island from 40 feet in the air.

• **Beach Shack** — This family ride See CONEY on page 14

## SI Republicans pick Allegretti

By Helen Klein  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Staten Island's Republican Party has finally settled on a candidate — and it's the guy from Brooklyn.

One day after the county party nomination was submitted in the effort to draft-disgraced former Rep. Vito Fossella to face Rep. Mike McMahon (D-Bay Ridge), party members nominated Bay Ridge Michael Allegretti to be

the standard-bearer.

Allegretti is battling Michael Grimm for the right to take on McMahon in the fall. He has been endorsed by the Kings County Republican Party. As such, he thinks he's on the right track.

"There was an overwhelming outpouring of support for me from [Staten Island] Republican grass roots advocates last week," he said. "It comes

See GOP on page 14



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See GOP on page 14

## DeBlasio puts a shingle out

On the street, Advocate plays therapist to an anxious public

By Alex Rush  
*The Brooklyn Paper*



Just call him Dr. DeBlasio. The advocate for Mayor Bill DeBlasio doesn't have a Ph.D. in psychoanalysis, but his street-side appearance on Tuesday afternoon as he called as his public Advocate on the phone to an anxious DeBlasio up being more of a therapy session than an exercise in public policy. DeBlasio and his staff set up a table on Flatbush Avenue in front of the Nathan's Famous restaurant at the Crossroads of Brooklyn, if we have such a thing — to allow random pedestrians to speak with their advocate about any issue.

DeBlasio was looking forward to

mowing those grassroots.

"When you do these set-ups, you hear about problemly things you didn't know about and you didn't even know you didn't think of," DeBlasio said. "You can use this experience to help people."

But things didn't exactly go as planned. The advocate's brooding community concerns, DeBlasio spent most of his time playing therapist. Katherine Bram Fredericks whined about her cellphone contract (it really is unfair, the advocate said). Richard Gill commented that BP oil spill in the Gulf is a major ecological disaster). And Lauren Brown is worried that New York State is wasting all the lottery money (that's a bit outside the advocate's jurisdiction).

See DEBLASIO on page 5

## Reading the sign of the times at Nathan's Famous



WHO'S WHO? SEE PAGE 2

### THE BROOKLYN ANGLE

By Gersh Kuntzman

One of America's true sports legends has just been tossed into the dustbin of history at Coney Island.

Last week, the organizers of the Nathan's hot dog eating contest hung a new "Wall of Fame" above the hallowed ground where the annual eat-a-dog war is waged — and Ed "The Mouth of the Monster" Kroc has been edited out.

Kroc's not the only competitive eat-a-dog giant to get the chop. The scrupulous Mike "The Scholar" Devito, who earned his nickname because of his scholarly approach to the game of champions, also didn't make the final version. Nor did "Gregory Charles Hines, Eric 'Bozo' Bozzo" or even Amos Wonger, the "Bard" of Coney Island.



WHO'S WHO? SEE PAGE 2



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# Boardwalk or sidewalk?

Cement to replace Coney Island's renowned trademark

By Joe Maniscalco  
The Brooklyn Paper

Concrete is beating out wood for the city's signature Boardwalk.

A high-ranking Parks Department official said this week that the city is leaning toward replacing the world-famous Riegelmann Boardwalk's wooden planks — which have been marched on for more than 70 years — with concrete.

Even though Parks says it is exploring three different options for replacing the nearly 2-mile-long boardwalk — wood, concrete, and a synthetic material — concrete clearly has the edge for a few reasons.

"When you look at the fitness of it, concrete is the cheapest to do," said Martin Maher, the Brooklyn chief of the Parks Dept.'s boardwalk division. "I'm completely convinced that at least the substructure needs to be concrete."

According to Maher, replacing

the Boardwalk with concrete would cost the city about \$70 per linear foot — half of what it pays when rebuilding sections with wood.

But critics say that more concrete is not the last thing they want to see.

"I see them as melanoma

on the face of the Boardwalk," Robert Burnstein said. "My fear is that it will split."

Already, traditional

wooden planks are being

ripped out and replaced with

concrete, wood, concrete, and

a synthetic material — and

concrete clearly has the edge for a few reasons.

Urban renewal

International Federation of Competitive Eating President George Shea always maintained the highest level of respect for the sport, including the sport's dizzying oral history from that very first contest in 1917 to the "dead end" of the 1990s when even the most obscure food was enough to win the coveted Mustard Yellow Interna-

tional Belt to the Japanese invasion of the 1990s all the way through to the current day, according to legend Joey "Jaws" Lanza.

But I never thought I'd see the day when Shea would be a hero under a pile of gristle.

Heroes? You betcha:

"Kracie was the first

American to consistently

beat the HDB mark that, like

the 20 HDB mark that, like

the four-minute mile, was

thought to be insurmountable.

He also coauthored a

scientific paper called "The Belt of Fat Theory" that predicted the rise of a generation of

obese Americans, as published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, which foolishly passed on it. It was eventually published in The Brooklyn Paper. Naturally.

\*Devito was a two-time

champion in the 1990s

when he defeated Orin

Ito, a tiny Japanese eater, in

a one-on-one stuff-your-face-off under the Brooklyn Bridge. It was the first of

a wave of challengers who would soon come from the

Land of the Rising Sun.

But Devito sent her packing,

forestalling the complete

invasion by at least

three years.

\*It was the game's

first African-American

star, a man who was better

known, and better respected

in the Eatery Houses than

Michael Jordan or Stephen

Marbury.

\*Legendary Las Vegas

Lorelei Lee, Devito

competed in a lingerie-esque

bathrobe and gave the game

its most-lasting legacy: The

Bunettes, a group of red,

white, and blue groupies

who became delicious fig-

ures on the circuit.

\*Wengerl not always

sing on key, but his

ingenuity, especially,

"Hot Dog Time," has trans-

fixed a generation. Before

he fades into the mists of a

Sheesh-a-bop-Pokey, let's

consider this stanza:

Hot dogs, hot dogs

Watch them eat them up

Hot dogs, hot dogs

Great with soda pop

A Fourth of July with-

out the dog is positively

unpatriotic.

O

Course, Shea did

missed my carping

as the complaints of

a man out of step with the

sport as it enters its 11th de-

cade.

\*The lesson is this: Do

you listen to the Who's Who?

Shea asked.

\*The bottom line is that it's

the people's choice.

\*Dan "Moses" Lerman,

"Krazy" Kevin Lipsitz or Ed

"Cookie" Jarvis, have fam-

ily anymore. The guys on that

wall may have eclipsed all

else.

\*Eclipse? Tim "Eater X"

Janus? What, because he

wasn't

the

champion last month in

Buffalo? How does that com-

pare to uniting a nation, as

Kracie did?

\*"Gravy" Brown

9. Juliet Lee

10. John "Jaws"

11. Crazy Legs Conti

12. Little Jimmy

13. Nathan's CEO

Wayne Norbitz

at 773 pounds of boneless

chicken wings last month in

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# First iPad theft is reported!

## POLICE BLOTTER

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88TH PRECINCT

**Fort Greene—Clinton Hill**  
Brooklyn police have reported that a man was shot and killed during a robbery that occurred near Fort Greene on May 28.

The 31-year-old man, identified as a police source, told police that he was playing on the revolutionary tablet computer near the corner of Park and Waverly avenues at 10 p.m. when a man approached him and snatched the device out of his hand.

The thief was last seen running down Park Avenue toward Clinton Street, obviously looking forward to "sharp objects." That victim told police that he was simply sitting in the park when the jerks approached him, and he responded by pulling out his computer, a 16-inch laptop.

After a few weeks, the victim said, he was the first time he had taken his laptop to the park.

Still, he said that he is not too worried about the theft, which he called a "lucky thing."

"It was insured," he said.

### Rough return

A thief was arrested after swiping a woman's iPhone.

The victim told police that she was walking on May 27 around 10 p.m. when a "sharp object" hit her in the back.

When the woman pulled out her phone to check her map, she realized that it had ran off, but the woman wasn't about to let her prized possession go without a fight.

After a brief struggle, the thief ran around and swung at her victim, but missed, police were told.

Then the thief threw the woman to the ground, but the police officers who responded to the call into custody.

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### No direction

Two muggers pounced and robbed a friendly Fort Greene guide on May 28.

The guide, who didn't get out of the neighborhood before being arrested.

Police said the suspects approached the victim on Hanson Place between S. Oxford Street and S. Portland Avenue at 3:15 a.m. and asked for directions, but when the guide refused to give them, the muggers followed him around the corner and attacked, beating him and running off with his jeans, wallet, cash and even his shoes.

But they didn't get far. When they entered the nearest subway station, they were nabbed by cops.

### Tracked down

A heavy-handed thief trailed a 28-year-old man for several blocks before mugging him on his wallet and cellphone on May 24.

The victim told police he was nearing the end of his walk on Front Street between Hanson Place and S. Oxford Street at 12:30 a.m. when the thief pounced, using enough force to cause a trip to Brooklyn Hospital.

### Roll-by robbery

A man who was intent on shooting a woman in the head if she didn't hand over her wallet on Adelphi Street on May 25 — though it is not clear if he actually did — was nabbed.

Not taking any chances, the 35-year-old handed over \$10 and her cellphone to the pickpocket during the 2:50 a.m. hold-up between Park and Myrtle avenues, cops were told.

### Pretty pinch

A jeweler selling baubles at the Atlantic Center Mall lost a \$100 diamond ring on May 24 — and his own employee may be to blame.

The shop, which is owned by a Benji Bazaar, was located on Atlantic Avenue between Fort Greene Place and S. Portland Avenue, said the employee put the ring in the safe in the back office on May 22.

But when the safe was opened on May 24, six diamond rings, five chains, four pendants and four bracelets were missing.

The woman, who was shown up for work that morning, and her phone number was suddenly disconnected.

### Car loot

A thief broke into a car parked on S. Elliott Place on May 27, taking two computers and stole his bookbag and a BlackBerry.

The 28-year-old motorist, identified as a man from Fort F150 between Hanson Place and S. Portland Avenue at 12:15 p.m. before running a few errands, returned 45 minutes later to find his driver-side door popped open and his property missing.

— Thomas Tracy

### 94TH PRECINCT

**Greenpoint—Williamsburg**  
McCarren mess

A group of ruffians stabbed a 15-year-old kid at McCarren Park on

May 28.

The kid told police that he was hanging out at the park, near Rockwell and Bedford Avenues, when the group surrounded him. The boy tried to run, but one of them hit him in the neck of the head and shoved him to the ground. Two other goons pushed and kicked him in the head before he fled.

Others in the group then chased down the 19-year-old, apparently at random, and started hitting him with "sharp objects." That victim told police that he was simply sitting in the park when the jerks approached him, and he responded by pulling out his computer, a 16-inch laptop, and the group scattered shortly after the stabbing, and cops couldn't find them.

### Car prowl

A hoodlum pulled a knife and approached the woman on May 24.

The victim told police that she was walking on May 24 at 11:30 p.m. when a man approached her and said, "Give me your purse."

The perp approached the woman at 11:30 p.m. as she was walking on May 24 at the Flushing Avenue station.

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## State says fowl is fair!

**Ag agency: Key Food chicken relabeling is OK**

By Andy D'Amato  
The Brooklyn Paper

A Brooklyn Heights Key Food that has been repeatedly accused of changing the "sell-by" date on meat is off the hook this week after the state revealed its meat relabeling practice is completely legal.

The Atlantic Avenue market was under state scrutiny last month after customer Michael Viljosen took pictures of a spot of D'Amato's meat that had been relabeled to have a new "sell-by" date placed over the 11-days-old original. The store has been cracked with some serious food safety violations over the past few months, but the state now says that there's no problem.

"Sell by" dates are nothing but a tool for food managers," said Jessica Ziehm, a spokesman for the Department of Agriculture and Markets that inspected the Key Food after Viljosen's claims. "It's not illegal to re-

label or re-package," though they're not allowed to sell meat that's past its products. We went there, and found no problems."

Ziehm said the department followed up on Viljosen's May 13 claim mainly because meat inspectors had spotted that the store's meat was deteriorating.

Still, the state is exonerated in the next inspection's "critic deficiencies" in the store's practices at that time.

The Brooklyn Paper revealed that this particular Key Food walked a fine line last month after failing to find meat with critical food deficiencies of the worst grade. In April, inspectors found a significant "buildup of old encrusted meat residues on food contact surfaces" in May, when they found that in the basement, there were problems that were resolved in front of inspectors.

If the Key Food had failed a third inspection on May 13, its license could have been revoked, Ziehm said.

Viljosen is the only one complain-

ing to the state, the paper's Consumer Blog reported. Our original story, a commenter provided a shocking picture of a package of meat labeled "tops" that clearly indicated the date of manufacture despite the original date circled in yellow.

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# Principal withdraws discrimination suit

**Almontaser doesn't want to go through with fight**

By Helen Klein  
for The Brooklyn Paper

In an surprising reversal, the founder of a public school with a controversial Arabic curriculum announced that she will not pursue a lawsuit against city officials for racial discrimination—despite a recent report from a federal agency that she was deserving of financial reparation.

The former principal of the Khalil Gibran International Academy, Debbie Almontaser, said that the prospect of protracted litigation that would have hurt her school the most was too much.

"I have decided that it is time for me to move on with my professional and personal life," said Almontaser. "Addressing the [federal] discrimination claim would mean re-living the unfortunate and painful events of August 2007, when my school was attacked and my students and my colleagues were injured."

Almontaser's decision to withdraw the suit she filed two months after the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ruled that the Department of Education "acted with discriminatory bias" that creation of the school was intended to dispel when it

first Muslim-American to quit her job as principal of Khalil Gibran.

City officials reiterated that officials that Almontaser's firing was legal.

"We feel it is important that during the furor, Almontaser appeared in a New York Post article about a line of T-shirt designs that read, 'Albada NYC' that she failed to notice the shirts in the article, and resigned in the subsequent firestorm."

The school opened without her.

In the wake of the federal ruling in March that vindicated Almontaser, Khalil Gibran's new principal, Holly Greene Reichert, abruptly resigned, standing between two cultures that are often perceived as being at odds.

Right-wing bloggers got wind of the new school and labels like "madrassa" and "jihad school" began circulating in the media.

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## KENT...

*Continued from page 1*  
"I have five kids and I'm the breadwinner of the family. I needed to improve my finances."

After he spoke with several coworkers and did his own research about how to organize them to ask for better wages and health benefits, a representative from the best-known union in the construction industry, the International Union of Building and Construction Workers, came to him.

"I asked them why I was being fired and they said because I was rallying for the union," said Guzman.

Guzman also received notice from his employer, Lifestyles Services, that he had been laid off, but was told says he had never been told why he has been fired or received his checks from previous this.

Legal disputes have been rare in Williamsburg over the past five years during the real estate boom. Many of the new developments along the BQE were built by the same developer, RoseLand Properties, which was exempt from the new law.

"I don't know what to do," said Martinez. "I'm trying to seek some kind of help. Right now I'm going crazy with this."

St. John's building management company, RoseLand Properties, likely did not have the legal recourse to terminate their workers' contracts. Feinberg claims employees are discharged or disciplined if anyone who seeks to be represented by a union.

"If the employees are trying to organize and they are dismissed for that reason,

Public Advocate Bill DeBlasio talks to Zelphia Phillips.

## DEBLASIO

*Continued from page 1*

district, also).

But DeBlasio was not concerned.

"We want to make ourselves available to help people deal with city agencies," he said.

In fact, the public advocate was willing to hear the select private concerns that reflected greater issues. One woman, who refused to give her name, told DeBlasio that some schools should accept students regardless of their test scores and grades. She said she was upset her daughter could not get into one and remains in public school, where some teach-

ers "don't care if students learn or not."

And Sabrett vendor Abdulkarim called for the public advocate's attention to a pressing matter: the theft of his hot dogs.

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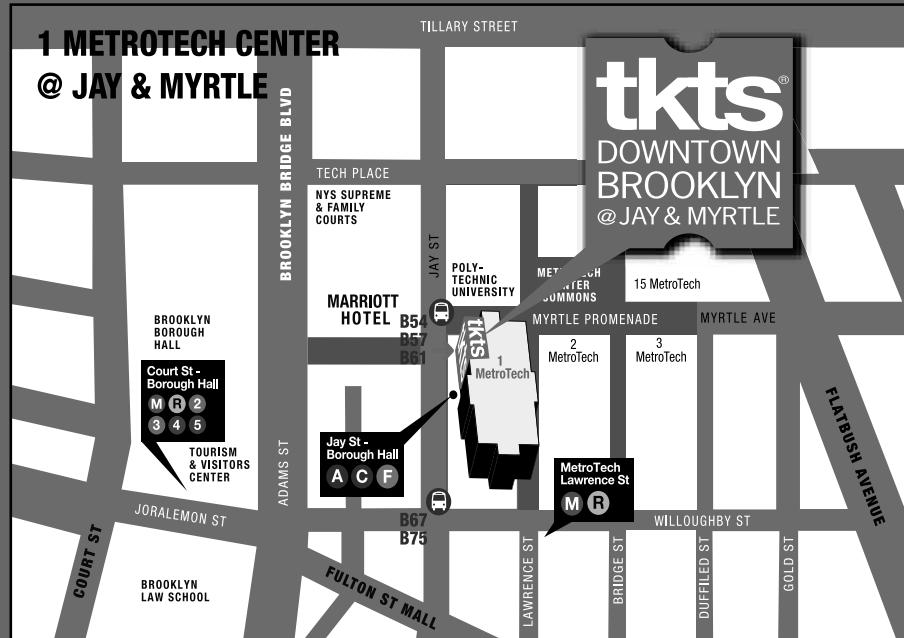
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[www.metrotechbid.org](http://www.metrotechbid.org)







**BEER...**

Continued from page 7  
lock, thermometer and other tools to find out why exactly you need those items, check out our accompanying guide to homebrewing.

And there wouldn't be any beer without grains, yeast, hops and malt extract, of which Brooklyn Homebrew's a route.

Brooklyn Homebrew (163 Eighth St. near Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 309-4267. For info, visit [www.brooklynhomebrew.com](http://www.brooklynhomebrew.com).

**Stock up**

Stock up and Erica Stets of the Brooklyn Brew Shop sell one-gallon brewing kits, as well as grain, hops, yeast and other equipment.

**Beer 101**

Asked Benjamin Brooklyn Gowanus to break down the process for us (which we've simplified even more).

**INGREDIENTS**

Water (from hoses)

for the first batch, which makes about 30-40

ounces of beer.

to brewing hoses and hoses, in the city dweller in mind the kits are small for those with limited space. Because you need to taste good, you want to go for it, too.

Brooklyn Brew Shop at the Brooklyn Flea (76 Lafayette Ave. between Clermont

one-point bottles) Five pounds liquid malt extract, British hops, Liquid yeast

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Bring water to a boil. 2. Dissolve malt extract in water. 3. Turn off to avoid burning the extract. Once dissolved, return to a boil.

4. Add hops and yeast.

5. Vigorously shake or rock the fermenter for five

minutes. The resulting liquid is

and Vanderbilt avenue in Fort Greene, no phone, and online at [www.brooklynbrewshop.com](http://www.brooklynbrewshop.com).

**Take classes**

At the Brooklyn Kitchen in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, we take classes, as well as

with homebrewers at their monthly

Brewing School. But first, the basic homebrewer's extravaganza Dan Pizzillo leads the spot's homebrewing crash course (the next one's up on June 12).

about malt, yeast, and tools

to brew at home, as well as

get your own equipment kit.

4. Chill the wort to prevent any contamination and to ensure a clear-colored beer.

5. Pour to about 72 degrees (though this temperature can vary depending on what you're making).

6. Once cooled, pour wort into fermenter and add yeast.

7. Vigorously shake or

rock the fermenter for 10 minutes.

8. Attach an airlock.

9. Let beer sit at a consistent temperature (between 62 and 75 degrees, depending on style) in a dark space for one to two weeks.

10. Once fermentation is complete, keg or bottle the beer.

11. Enjoy.

For a fuller explanation, visit: [www.brooklynbrew.com](http://www.brooklynbrew.com).

It's the closest thing to beer school you'll find.

Brooklyn Kitchen (100

Frost St. near Leonard Street in Williamsburg (718) 389-2982). Upcoming homebrewing classes are on

June 10 and 23 at 6:30 p.m.

and cost \$125. For info, visit [www.brooklynkitchen.com](http://www.brooklynkitchen.com).



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## The ice cream of the summer!

Fluffnut ice cream is Phinny & Pheebe's signature flavor, inspired by the peanut butter-and-fluff Ritz cracker sandwiches we used to eat as kids. The ice cream is made by covering the delicious sandwiches in caramel and chocolate. Yum.

**Fluffnut ice cream**

**FOR THE FLUFFNUTS**

20 Ritz crackers

10 lbs. peanut butter

10 lbs. Marshmallow

3/4 cup brown sugar

3/4 stick butter

15 oz. semi-sweet

chocolate chips

**FOR THE ICE CREAM**

2 large eggs

3/4 cup sugar

2 cups of heavy cream

1/2 cup of water

To make the ice cream:

Whisk eggs in a mixing bowl until light and fluffy, about one to two minutes. Whisk in the sugar, a little at a time, and continue whisking until completely blended, about one minute more. Pour into a mixing bowl with the whisk to blend. Freeze in an ice cream maker according to manufacturer's instructions.

To make the sandwiches: Place 10 Ritz crackers in a single layer on a cookie sheet. Put about a tablespoon of peanut butter on each cracker. That's the same for the fluff. Cover with the remaining Ritz crackers to

make the sandwiches. Put the cracker sandwiches aside.

Prepare the caramel

by placing the butter and brown sugar in a saucepan. Stir and bring to a simmer for two minutes. Melt the chocolate in a double boiler over medium heat. Simulate a double boiler by placing a heatproof metal bowl on top of a sauté pan. Put the chocolate in the pan and melt, stirring until fully melted. Be careful not to burn the chocolate. (It's a good idea to melt the chocolate in a double boiler, as you do for the ice cream.)

To melt the chocolate, first boil about one cup of water in a sauté pan over medium heat. Simulate a double boiler by placing a heatproof metal bowl on top of a sauté pan. Put the chocolate in the bowl and melt, stirring until fully melted. Be careful not to burn the chocolate. (It's a good idea to melt the chocolate in a double boiler, as you do for the ice cream.)

Now, to make the fluff: Remove the butter from each cracker sandwich, fully covering. Then do the same with the chocolate. Cover fluffnuts in the refrigerator for about 24 hours.

Remove ice cream from the freezer when done and blend into the ice cream.

Eat.

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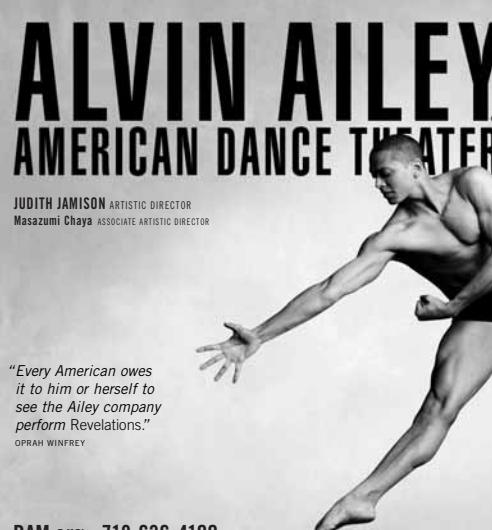
\*New Accounts and new money only. The annual percentage yield (APY) for BestRate Checking is 1.35% and will remain in effect for 90 days after account opening. At the end of this 90 day period the rate will revert to standard pricing. The APY is effective May 19, 2010. You must maintain an average balance of \$5,000 for the statement cycle to receive the disclosed yield and to avoid the monthly maintenance fee of \$10. Fees may reduce earnings. Rates and other are subject to change without notice.

\*APY effective May 19, 2010. Annual percentage yield assumes principle and interest remain on deposit for a full year at current rate. Minimum deposit balance of \$5,000 is required. A new BestRate or Relationship checking account is required to open a new CD with the preferred rate. For IRA and rollover IRA accounts, minimum deposit is \$10,000. A new checking account is required for IRA accounts. New deposits only. Funds cannot be transferred from an existing Flushing Bank account. Premature withdrawals may be subject to bank and IRA penalties. Rates and other are subject to change without notice.

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## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8  
[www.BrooklynPaper.com](http://www.BrooklynPaper.com)

**MUSIC: CLASSICAL.COM**  
CERT: The Orchestra of St. Luke's featuring Stephen Dillane, Michael Vernon, Linda Eder, John Lutze and John Freney. 7 pm. Brooklyn Museum, 100 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights. (718) 638-5000; [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org)

**MUSIC: BROOKLYN.COM**  
MUNITY CHORUS: Singing

selections from Broadway

to Broadway. 7:30 pm.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Church (729 Carroll St. at Carroll

Avenue in Park Slope). (718)

638-8250.

**SALES AND MARKETS**

**BAY RIDGE GREENMARKET:**

Food vendors galore. 8

am-1 pm. 10th Street

between 4th and 5th Avenues

in Park Slope. (718)

638-0020.

**PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET:**

9 am-4 pm. Grand Army

Plaza between 5th and 6th

Avenues in Park Slope. (718)

638-0071.

**PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET:**

9 am-4 pm. Too Green

Shoe? As part of the

Too Soon Festival. 9:30

am-4 pm. 23rd Street

between 4th and 5th

Avenues in Park Slope. (718)

638-0099.

**ARTISTS AND FLEAS:**

Free. 10 am-3 pm. Jephcott

Artisan (168-50 Johns Pt.

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**ARTISTS**

# Southern comfort

Seersucker in Carroll Gardens does Dixie proud

By Kristen V. Brown  
For The Brooklyn Paper

**T**he concept like the Carroll Gardens restaurant's name — a polished Southern classic.

So when a close-up homage to Chef Robert Newton's Arkansas childhood, a collaboration between a native, a Le Cirque veteran, and private chef of his girlfriend, Kerry Diamond.

"When Rob came to New York, he was as surprised to find that it was as unlike Southern food is something that 'deep fried and covered in gravy,'" said Diamond. "He wanted to show people it doesn't have to be."

Yes, you'll find items like the pre-requisite shrimp and grits (\$18), but here it's accented with tomatoes and mushrooms from the Carroll Gardens' farmers' market rather than smooth-



'Sucker' punch: Chef Robert Newton has opened Seersucker, a new take on Southern cuisine, on Smith Street.

erred in cheddar. Newton has a strong sensibility of fresh and local, using much of both in his cooking.

A hearty country cassoulet was a hit at the restaurant's "friends and family" last week — served

## DINING

**Seersucker** (329 Smith St. between Carroll and President Streets, Carroll Gardens, (718) 422-0444); Closed Mondays.

alongside a perfectly tender duck leg and topped with cornbread dumplings.

The Southern barbecue (\$17), with shishito and charred scallions, was strangely decadent, a mix of that strange but thoughtful vegetarian option for a Southern joint.

Newton's Southern-style biscuits, though, are refreshingly all-American, and coffee, of course, comes from Counter Culture in Durham, North Carolina. You can't wait to see those big breakfasts come for real. Seersucker serves dinner only.

"It's still Southern classics," said Diamond, "but with a much lighter hand."



The Best Thing  
We Ate This Week

Photo by Kristen V. Brown

## The \$11 hot dog

After conquering mala-bug beer at Spuyten Duyvil and barbecue at Fette Sau, Joe Carroll decided that the next thing the intersection of Havemeyer and Metropolitan needed was a hot dog, and lots of 'em — and he's got 'em.

Opening in June, Carroll's newest venture is serving only house-made sodas and a limited menu, consisting primarily of hot dogs. The hot dogs, though, do not by any means underwhelm.

On a menu that oddly makes many of its cues from New Jersey culinary tradition, the star is undoubtedly the Newark dog (\$11), easily the

granddaddy of every other hot dog that's ever graced the earth. Two franks are deep fried, stuffed in a giant-sized bun of "pizza bread" and topped with golden, crispy French fries and a delicious, lightly breaded peppers and onions, fried to be crisp and toppings perfectly browned. It's hard to eat, once you finally bite into that moist, succulent hot dog, true bliss awaits. At St. Anselm, the hot dogs are specially made by Karen Ehrhart; they're a little smaller, a little more tender and fresher than you could ever imagine a hot dog to taste.

St. Anselm (355 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384-5054); — Kristen V. Brown

## FAMILY CALENDAR

### JUNI 4

10 am-5 pm: Free American celebration. The Redhawk Arts Council hosts "American Celebrations" featuring authentic cuisine, demonstrations and performances for children, children 6 and under. Gateway National Park, 100 Avenue of the Americas at Floyd Bennett Field (50 Aviation Ave.), near Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, (718) 686-2271, www.redhawkarts.org.

11:30 am Storytime with Emily, Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710), www.emilyspot.com.

4:45 pm: Movie "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy." Peter Pan's sidewalk stage, 100 Avenue of the Americas at Floyd Bennett Field, (718) 686-2271, www.redhawkarts.org.

5:30 pm Storytime with Emily, Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710), www.emilyspot.com.

6:45 pm: Movie "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy." Peter Pan's sidewalk stage, 100 Avenue of the Americas at Floyd Bennett Field, (718) 686-2271, www.redhawkarts.org.

7:30 pm Storytime with Emily, Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710), www.emilyspot.com.

8:30 pm: "Daydream." See Saturday, June 5.

9:30 pm Storytime with Emily, Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710), www.emilyspot.com.

10 am-4 pm: Storytime with Emily, Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710), www.emilyspot.com.

10:30 am Storytime for kids, Greenlight Bookstore (66 Smith St. between Hoyt and South Elliott Place and South Portland Avenue in Fort Green, Brooklyn, (718) 773-3391), www.greenlightbookstore.com.

11 am-7 pm: Native American celebration. See Friday, June 4.

11:30 am Singalong with Lloyd. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710), www.emilyspot.com.

12:30 pm: "Daydream." See Saturday, June 5.

1:30 pm: Science power hour. See Saturday, June 5.

2:30 pm: "Daydream." See Saturday, June 5.

3 pm: Storytime with Emily, Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710), www.emilyspot.com.

4 pm: "The Extra Terrestrial." \$6.50. Cobble Hill Cinema (265 Court St. between Franklin and Douglass streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 595-9113), www.cobblehillcinema.com.

5 pm: "Daydream." See Saturday, June 5.

6 pm: Storytime with Emily, Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710), www.emilyspot.com.

7 pm: "The Extra Terrestrial." \$6.50. Cobble Hill Cinema (265 Court St. between Franklin and Douglass streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 595-9113), www.cobblehillcinema.com.

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10:30 am Storytime for kids, Brooklyn Children's Museum (5 St. Marks Avenue, between Franklin and Kingston avenues in Prospect Heights, (718) 923-9710), www.bcm.org.

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